

Agenda: 11/10/2014

Item: I-3

# Village of Dexter



# Community Garden

2014 Season

## Getting the garden growing

Garden applications were available from the late winter until spring through links on the Village of Dexter website. To promote the gardening program, a variety of resources were used to reach as many area residents as possible. Information was first made available on the Village website in January 2014. In early March, a number of flyers were placed on the information boards throughout the village. Flyers were also placed with several local businesses. Finally, Walkabout Creek residents received a special article about the program in their community newsletter.

As in previous years, Village of Dexter residents had first priority over non-residents in applying for plots and returning gardeners were allowed to request the same plots as they had used previous season.

After receiving confirmation of their plot applications, plots were assigned and gardeners were invited to participate in the Spring Work Party.





## Village of Dexter Community Garden 2014

After a particularly wet and cold spring, plowing and staking out of the garden was completed on May 26th. On Saturday the 30th of May, a nice large group of gardeners turned out for the Spring Work Party!

At this party, fencing was raised at the north and south ends of the garden and re-secured and repaired along the other sides. The north and south entrance gates were installed, mulch was spread in the main pathway, and gardeners had a great opportunity to meet their gardening neighbors and start planting.

Department of Public Works provided additional tools and equipment to make the work much easier for the gardeners.



## Exciting improvements

The 5th season at the garden was marked by yet another very important improvement. A weed barrier cloth was laid down in the middle of the garden to keep the weeds out of the main path. During the spring work day gardeners spread a thick layer of wood chips on top of the cloth to keep plots accessible throughout the season.





## Urban Pollinator study

This year Dexter Community Garden participated in an Urban Pollinator study led by a group of graduate students from the University of Michigan.

The study is centered around native pollinators and how urban gardens possibly affect their survival.

Gardeners welcomed researchers into their plots and hosted temperature recording toggles and insect traps throughout the season.

The results of the study will be shared with the garden community at a later date.



## Season in pictures





## Village of Dexter Community Garden 2014



## End of the season

The garden clean up party was held on the 11th of October. Gardeners removed the entrance gates and brought in the north and south sections of the fence. The garden was also tidied up in preparation for the fall tilling. We had a nice turnout and gardeners exchanged thoughts and experiences aplenty!





## Community Garden Survey Results

*All gardeners were asked to participate in the Community Garden End-of-Season Survey. Not all gardeners responded to the survey, and not all of those responding answered all the questions.*

**Number of garden plots:** 16 full plots (or 32 half plots) and 4 raised beds

**Number of primary gardeners:** 21

**Number of surveys received:** 9

*The answers below represent combined totals and are based upon the best estimates of responding gardeners, extrapolated out to cover all the garden plot.*

**Total number of people who gardened with the Community Garden this season:** 27 among respondents, total likely nearer 100

### **What did you grow on your plot?**

Popcorn, zucchini, peas, sweet corn, potatoes, green beans, cabbage, kale, brussels sprouts, basil, dill, sweet peppers, hot peppers, marigolds, cosmos, yellow squash, turnips, spinach, eggplant, watermelon, honey rock melons, carrots, sunflower, pumpkins, cucumbers, beets, radishes, lettuce, onions, tomatillos, and butternut squash!

**How much would you say you have harvested from your plot this season?** 680+ lbs

(Note: Many gardeners responded to this question with answers such as “2 shopping bags’ full” or “25 ears of corn”.)

**How much have you shared with others?** 180+ lbs

**How many people did you share your produce with?** 89 among respondents, total likely well over 100

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